

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



Summer 2005

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A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services

"Training on the Leading Edge"

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Dear New Hampshire Fire and Emergency Medical Services Personnel:

I have a few items to cover during this communication, but the best is first: KUDOS to DOVER FIRE & RESCUE for their GREAT fire prevention in the schools program. It was riveting even for an old man like me. They had a skit, actually a play that was more than a half hour in length and this year it was a take-off on Toy Story...even with Buzz Lightyear! Seatbelt use, smoke detector maintenance, stop-drop-roll, candle safety, and much more. It was a time filled with puppetry, dance, singing, and entertainment...it was awesome! I can't wait to be invited next year as well. Great job Dover Fire & Rescue!

Watching the program in Dover, I could not help but think about how the fire and emergency medical services helps the community...I don't mean responding to calls, I mean the other stuff...helping those needing help! The big toy drive every year during the holidays, assuring those in need have food on the holidays, helping Jerry's Kids in the raising of funds for muscular dystrophy, and the list goes on and on! I am proud to be part of an organization that truly cares about others! Thanks for your contributions to your community and the bigger community...it is appreciated!

After the publishing of the last Fire and Emergency Medical Services News I received many communications, and I have to agree that we went from an all fire communication, to nearly an all EMS publication...I hope you will find a better mix in this and future issues. Thanks for communicating your concerns...it is the only way to effect change!

Lastly, as we really dive into the warmth of summer, we can't forget our own safety: know what's below the surface before you dive, wear a helmet when cycling...with or without a motor, walk facing traffic, and train the way we work...including all aspects of safety, make it second nature. I never wore a seatbelt, then came kids...I can't drive across the street without it now...safety in training should be the same. It should be standard and by habit! Hope you all have a great summer time!

God Speed...Rick Mason

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Thurs. of each month (except July-August)	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting 10:00 a.m.	NHFA
2nd Thurs. of each month	Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; preregistration required by 1st of month	NHFA
3rd Friday of each month	National Registry Exam for EMS at 9:00am	NHFA
Every month	Train-the-Trainers (watch for listings)	NHFA

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

09/21/05	Personnel Accountability & Supervision for EMS Leaders	NHFA
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FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS: Watch for future listings

FIRE OFFICER PROGRAMS:

10/03/05 - 11/04/05	Fire Officer I & II	NHFA
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FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS:

09/19/05 - 03/01/06	Firefighter I	NHFA
09/19/05 - 11/21/05	Firefighter II	Winnisquam
09/13/05 - 11/17/05	Firefighter II	NHFA
10/24/05 - 11/04/05	Certified Career Firefighter	NHFA

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:

09/13, 09/17, 09/20, & 09/24/05	Hazardous Materials Operations	Rindge
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INDUSTRIAL TRAINING: Watch for future listings

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS:

09/17/05 & 09/18/05	Leadership I: Strategies for Personal Success	Epping
09/11/05 - 09/17/05	Rescue Systems I	NHFA
10/17/05 - 10/22/05	Rescue Systems II	NHFA

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:

09/20, 09/22, 09/27, 09/29 & 10/01/05	Driver/Operator: Apparatus with Aerial Ladder	Goffstown
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TERRORISM PROGRAMS: Watch for future listings

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAMS: Watch for future listings

Marcia Houck, NREMT-P, EMS I/C

January 17, 1939 - April 17, 2005

The EMS Community in NH recently suffered the loss of a 30-year veteran, Marcia Houck. Known to many statewide from the work she did as a Regional Training Coordinator and EMS Bureau Chief at the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Locally, Marcia served with Amherst Rescue Squad since the 1970's and held leadership positions there including Squad President for two terms. Marcia was well known for her work within EMS education and is responsible for the initial training and mentoring of many new Emergency Medical Technicians. Both the NH EMS Medical Control Board and the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board observed a moment of silence at their May 19, 2005 meetings in Marcia's honor. Her efforts and dedication to NH EMS lives on around us everyday.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL RESCUE SKILLS (ITRS) CHANGES

During the recent Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting on May 5, 2005, the following proposal for changes to ITRS was presented by the NFPA 1006 Visiting Committee:

- * A reduction of four hours in the Incident Command System module from the original eight hours.
- * The addition of four hours to the Ropes module.
- * The addition of eight hours for a practical skills day.

This change was prompted because of the reduction of rope repelling in the Firefighter II curricula. Because of the necessity of rope knowledge and skills as a key component to ITRS and other technical rescue programs it was decided to add more time to this program. The Incident Command module was reduced because it is now mandatory in Firefighter II as well as being required by Department of Homeland Security for all first responders to be certified at. This will now take ITRS from 32 hours to 40 hours of required course delivery time. Public hearings for this change have occurred on June 6, 2005 at 2:00pm and at 6:30 pm at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.

VISITING COMMITTEES

One of the tasks of the New Hampshire Standards and Training Commission is the choosing of Visiting Committees. These groups are charged with recommending new curricula, or updating existing certification programs to present to the Commission for approval and adoption. All new and existing programs are subject to current National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro-Board) requirements.

Visiting committees in conjunction with the Bureau of Training and Certification of the New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services choose and develop the curricula to be offered and examined. Once the curricula is ready, it is presented

to the Commission for approval to pilot the program two times, once in the field and once at the Academy. After the pilots are completed and reviewed for accuracy and content, the visiting committee presents the program to the Commission for approval. Once the approval is given, the program is now ready to be offered whenever requested.

The following programs are at work with visiting committees:

NFPA 1003 Driver Operator Aerial Apparatus
NFPA 1006 Technical Rope Rescue
NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector II
NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator

WHO IS THE PRO-BOARD?

The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro-Board) is an organization that recognizes professional achievement in the fire service by accrediting organizations that certify uniform members of public fire departments, both career and volunteer. The Pro-Board accredits fire service training agencies that use the National Fire Prevention Association's professional qualification standards.

An agency that is accredited by the Pro-Board, makes national certification available to its members who are then placed on the Pro-Board national register and are then eligible for reciprocity with 39 other agencies across the United States and Canada. Agencies that achieve Pro-Board accreditation are recognized as having met the rigors of review by an independent review committee. Certification from a nationally accredited agency is a statement of success that each individual candidate has been measured against peers and meets national standards.

The Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services has been accredited by the Pro-Board since November of 1999. Many of our procedures for testing and course approval by the Fire Standards and Training Commission are determined by the requirements for national accreditation. We are proud to offer you, the fire service of New Hampshire this distinction.

Broselow Pediatric Emergency Tapes

Determining the medication dose to give a child in an emergency can be a challenge. In most cases the dose is based on the child's weight and this can be very difficult to estimate. Even parents can be far off the mark when they're asked their child's weight. And even if the estimate is accurate, there's the added chore of looking up the dose for a child of that weight.

To avoid these difficulties, the Bureau of EMS suggests using a Broselow Tape, which measures the child from head to toe and uses this measurement to estimate the child's weight, and thus the dose. The tape is divided into color-coded segments based on the child's length, and each of the colored segments shows the approximate weight for that length child, along with the dose for commonly used emergency drugs for children of that weight.

Unfortunately, errors are sometimes made using Broselow tapes. In a recent Medication Safety Alert, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) notes that the tapes can be placed alongside the child upside down, which would give the wrong length for the child and thus the wrong dose. ISMP also says that the 1998 edition of the tape can be confusing in several respects, and that some of these problems have

been corrected in the newer 2002 version. They also point out that errors can occur if providers wrongly assume that the listing of drugs on the tape means that they're to be given in sequence.

The ISMP recommends the following steps to prevent errors:

- Replace outdated Broselow tapes with the most recent edition, issued in 2002.
- Remember "RED TO HEAD" when placing the tape alongside the child's body.
- If the tape is laminated, be sure the plastic doesn't extend beyond the red arrow as could change the measurement starting point.

For training on how to properly use Broselow tapes, the Duke University Medical Center has a comprehensive programmed instruction course. http://dukehealth1.org/deps/clinical_ed.asp

Additional Information:

ISMP Medication Safety Alert. Broselow Tape: Measuring the Changes from 1998 to Today - February 26, 2004

<http://www.ismp.org/MSAarticles/tape.htm>

Put Down Your No. 2 Pencils!

Beginning in January 2007, the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) will be transitioning their traditional paper and pencil exams and going to Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT). This move will bring with it many benefits to state offices, potential employers, and NREMT candidates alike.

What is CAT? This computer-based testing makes the traditional written exam more "personalized" in that it has the ability to adjust the level of difficulty of questions based on the individual candidate's performance. For example, if a candidate responds incorrectly to a difficult question, the next question will be of a lesser difficulty. In this way, over-achieving candidates will respond to questions of high level of difficulty, while average or lesser performing candidates will respond to questions of an appropriately lower difficulty level. This is the "adaptive" feature of this type of testing.

Does this type of testing really test entry-level competency? Yes it does. Simply stated, the computer "looks" for a confidence level to assess an individual's abilities. If the standards are met quickly, the computer shuts off and the candidate passes. If the candidate continues to miss the easiest questions, the computer shuts off and the candidate fails. Entry-level competency continues to be measured, because CAT has the ability to determine this competency more efficiently, with greater precision, and by asking fewer questions.

Why make the change to computer-based testing? Well, there are four primary benefits: 1 - rapid turnaround of test results which will give pass / fail results within 24-48 hours, enabling testing-to-licensure time to be reduced; 2 - increased testing flexibility which will allow candidates, based on the availability at the testing center, to test sometimes even on the same day they call to schedule the exam; 3 - more accurate evaluation which uses a computer algorithm that selects questions for each candidate based on how they're doing as they proceed through the test, and; 4 - increased professionalism for licensed EMS providers which sets the EMS industry more in line with other health-career organizations.

As the National Registry moves toward CAT testing, they will be in constant communication with their network of key stakeholders (EMS directors, training coordinators, educators, training programs) and others who will be working with them to make this transition as smooth as possible. Brochures and DVD's will be made available which will explain computer-based testing and will also contain sample computer-based test questions, directions for online registration, and other information pertinent to this revolutionary change happening in EMS. For further information, call the National Registry of EMT's at 1-604-888-4484 or the NHBEMS at 1-888-827-5367 and ask for Sue Prentiss, Clay Odell, or Liza Burrill.

TEMSIS Tasks!

As the implementation phase of TEMSIS gets into gear, a "Task" list between our vendor Image Trend, the TEMSIS Committee and the Division has been generated. In order to complete the implementation, here are the "Tasks" we need to complete and their status:

*** Task 1: Define System Users**

In this process, the users of TEMSIS are defined by their levels of access to Protected Health Information. Status: Complete.

*** Task 2: Hospital Computer Grant**

To better facilitate TEMSIS, Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services (FST & EMS) has acquired desktop computer(s) and printer(s) for placement at NH Acute Care Hospitals for data entry. Status: Computers delivered to FST & EMS and now the hospitals.

*** Task 3: Unit Computer Grant**

FST & EMS through a grant have purchased a limited number of computer-printer combinations for eligible EMS Units to place in their agencies for use with TEMSIS. Status: Computers delivered, applications received.

*** Task 4: Business Rules**

TEMSIS will give EMS Providers entering chart information rapid feedback on the completes of their work. This rapid feedback is a result of assigning a value to different sections of the TEMSIS chart. Status: Task completed result delivered to Image Trend.

*** Task 5: Training for TEMSIS**

There are two components in the initial training for TEMSIS. The first component is the training for the FST & EMS and TEMSIS Group. The second component is the Train-the-Trainer for those who will be delivering the instruction to the EMS Unit Trainers. Status: Curriculum Review nearing completion, dates assigned for Train-the-Trainer instruction and Regional training.

*** Task 6: Evaluative Testing for TEMSIS - Round Two**

Information gathered during the first 30 to 60 days shall include completeness of data entered into TEMSIS, users perceptions of the systems as well as any structural issues and the value of information gathered through the system. Status: EMS Units selected from previous testing plus additional Units.

*** Task 7: TEMSIS Implementation Schedule**

Roll out of TEMSIS will take place on a Regional basis. Each Region weighed in on the line-up order as follows, 1st Region III, 2nd Region VI, 3rd Region I, 4th Region V, and 5th Region II. Status: Order of regions and dates selected.

For further information please contact either Fred von Recklinghausen at (603) 271-0322 or Michele Duchesne at (603) 271-7046.

It's that time again ~ Stand up and be counted!

The tenth year of Annual EMS Award nominations is under way and we are looking for nominations!

The criteria for the five annual EMS Awards and nomination form was sent out to each licensed EMS Unit and Hospital EMS Coordinator, or contact person, during the month of March. Additionally, you can easily print nomination forms and the awards information off the Bureau of EMS web site at www.state.nh.us/safety/ems under the Awards "button". There are five EMS award categories:

- * Bound Tree Unit of the Year Award
- * David J. Connor Memorial EMS Appreciation Award - "The Connor Honor"
- * EMS Educator of the Year

* Pamela Mitchell & Richard Connolly Memorial Achievement Award

* Lawrence Volz Heroism Award

This year the NH Bureau of EMS will join with the Fire Service Committee of Merit in combined awards ceremony on October 12, 2005. More details to follow! The deadline for nominations to be considered by the Bureau is September 2, 2005 - faxed copies may be submitted but must be followed up with the original being sent by mail to the Bureau. Follow directions on the nomination application and submit details about the individual, group or Unit being nominated, as it will assist the Committee greatly when reviewing the information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Staff Biographical Sketch

Cindy Castagnio, Secretary

I am new to the State of NH. I was born and raised in Newton, Massachusetts, where I joined the Marine Corps. I lived in Japan for a total of five years, and traveled the US for 8 more. I have one son named Tony, who is 16 and a student at Pembroke Academy. We recently moved to Epsom from Pembroke, where we are much happier.

I am a tax Professional in the tax season, and have been for more than 10 years. I am an avid reader, and am going to school in my spare time for computers. I hope to graduate with my Associate Degree in December.



Eric Perry, Field Service Representative

Eric Perry has recently joined the staff as our EMS Field Services Representative assigned to Central and Seacoast areas of New Hampshire based out of the Concord office. Eric started his fire and EMS career in 1995 as a volunteer for Nottingham Fire-Rescue. He comes to us after serving the Town of Gorham for seven years as a firefighter, their Assistant EMS Director and then EMS Director. Eric is a licensed Paramedic and Instructor / Coordinator. In his spare time he works as a patrolman for the Whitefield Police Department. Eric currently lives in Nottingham with his fiancée Darah. Eric looks forward to serving the EMS providers of New Hampshire in his new position.



Michele Ouellette, Receptionist

My name is Michele Ouellette - AKA Duffy. My Dad nicknamed me Duffy before I was born and I've been Duffy ever since. I grew up in Rhode Island and moved to New Hampshire 10 years ago. I started working for the Department of Safety 3 ½ years ago in Registrations. Very excited about the change, I came to the Academy in March. I live in Hopkinton where I enjoy gardening and learning to fix things around my new home. I enjoy spending time with my three children, Greg is 20, Marc is 18 and Kelsie is 16 and my best friend. We do everything from Country-Dance to running a few miles together. My children hold many accomplishments of their own and I hold them close in my heart.

Laughter is music for the soul, close your eyes, hear it and dance with it. And always remember a smile is worth so much and it takes so little. Stop by and say Hi.... Duffy

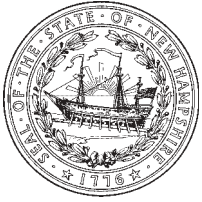


Lucie Roy, Secretary

Lucie Roy has been with the Division of Fire Standards & Training and EMS as of March 4, 2005. She is employed as a Secretary for the Berlin EMS Field Office. The Berlin Office is a very busy environment, and Lucie loves every minute of it!

Lucie resides in Berlin with her husband, Dan, and has two children, Brandon and Stephanie. In her spare time, Lucie instructs and participates in fitness classes.





STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 2005-04

May 30, 2005

Grill Use at Multifamily Occupancies Such as Apartments and Condominiums

The use of grills at these occupancies shall follow the requirements of NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code, 2003 edition as adopted pursuant to RSA 153:5 in the State Fire Code Saf-C 6000.

NFPA 1, "10.11.7 For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hi-bachi, gas grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10 feet (3 m) of any structure. Listed electric ranges, grills, or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted."

NFPA 1, section 10.11.7, prohibits the use of grills on balconies and under overhanging portions of the building. The code goes on to say that listed electrical units are allowed. The term listed is one of great importance, when it comes to these electrical units. The apparatus shall be used in accordance to its listing. This is to include location for use and distances to combustibles.

For grill use around one and two family dwellings the following safety tips are recommended.

- Grills shall be used in accordance with the listing.
- Keep loose clothing away from the cooking surface and beware of grease flare-ups.
- Check hose on gas grills for cracks and deterioration.
- Check your connections to the gas tank for leaks by applying a soap and water solution. If you see bubbles shut off the gas, clean and check for tightness and recheck again.
- Clean venturi tubes and grill burner to allow efficient mixture of gas and even heating.
- Use of gas grills, where permitted, shall be at least three feet from any combustibles, such as, your house, porch railings etc. The grill shall never be used under any overhang of the building, including the garage, breezeway, carport or porch.

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Subscriptions to the quarterly Newsletter are available to NH Firefighters and EMS Providers at no charge simply by completing the request below. If you already receive one, please do not fill out this request unless your information such as name, address, or fire department has changed.

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